


Lecture 8:
learning and differential
association

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intro to DA

- Background on Edwin Sutherland
- Assumptions
 - Cultural Relativism
 - Change and Flexibility in Human Behavior
 - Delinquency is Learned
 - Delinquency is Group Behavior

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conceptual tools

- Normative Conflict
 - Culture conflict and law
- Culture and subculture
 - Culture - knowledge, beliefs, norms, practices and "shared understandings"
 - Subculture - group with norms, values, and beliefs *distinct from* dominant culture
- Differential Association Process (9)
- Differential Social Organization (rates)

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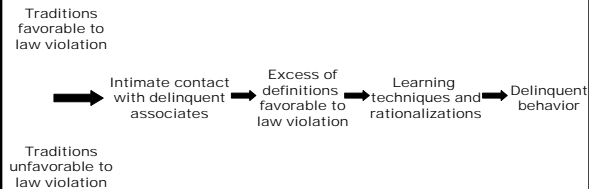
the DA process (9) p. 126

1. Criminal behavior is learned
2. .. in interaction with others in a process of communication
3. .. within intimate personal groups
4. The learning includes a) techniques and b) motives, drives, rationalizations & attitudes.
5. The specific direction is learned from definitions of the legal code as favorable & unfavorable.
6. One becomes criminal because of an excess of definitions favorable to law violation over definitions unfavorable.
7. Differential associations vary in frequency, duration, priority & intensity
8. This learning process involves the same mechanisms as any other learning
9. Criminal behavior is not explained by general needs (\$) and values, since non-criminal behavior expresses the same needs & values.
- [10. Differential Social Organization explains rates]

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Simplified Diagram of Differential Association Theory



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extensions and policy

- Extensions
 - Sykes & Matza
 - Symbolic Interactionism: Matsueda
 - Social Learning: Burgess & Akers
- Policy
 - "Community Treatment" (esp. Provo)
harness the power of the group
 - Quasi-Experiment. Results?
 - Provo better than institution
 - Silverlake about equal to institutionalization

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policy

- “Community Treatment” - harness power of the group
- Provo “Quasi-Experiment”
 - Number of Arrests in 1st year:
 - Provo .55 versus .7 for probation group
 - Provo 1.1 versus 1.7 for institution group
- Silverlake replication
 - Percent rearrested
 - Silverlake 40% versus 44% for institution

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critique

- DA is tautology: true by definition
- Differential receptivity (drug film)
- Origins of definitions
- DA is untestable (or really hard to test)
- DA doesn't specify learning process
- DA is too deterministic

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lessons

- Groups and peers as correlates or causes of delinquency
 - Still debated
 - Gangs
 - Peers and desistance
- Community treatment as effective as institutionalization (which isn't great) for non-violent delinquents

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next

- **Social Control & Self Control**
 - Rec: **THEORY**: B&B Chapter 10
 - **POLICY**: LUNDMAN 9: BOOT CAMPS Pp 238-256
 - **Cobain Chapters 15 & 16**

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